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EXAMINER

BURCH, MELODY M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3683

DATE MAILED: 10/31/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/735,634

Applicant(s)

LANDRIEVE, FRANCK

Examiner

Melody M. Burch

Art Unit

3683

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 August 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over FR-2804479 (FR '479) in view of US Patent 5044784 to Lisowsky.

Re: claims 1, 2, 3, 22, and 23. FR '479 shows in figures 19 and 20 a braked rolling bearing device of the type for a control wheel, comprising an outer part 26 and an inner part 4, one (the inner part) being able to rotate with respect to the other, which does not rotate, by means of at least one row of rolling elements 6 arranged between the rotating and non-rotating parts, the device further comprising a means for detecting rotating parameters 16, a means 2 for braking the rotating part (Examiner notes that by virtue of element 2 continuously contacting inner part 4 via the intervening elements the frictional force between the contacting elements provides a continuous braking force on the rotating part during rotation thereof), and an annular friction member 63 or 64, the means for braking comprising at least one component 62 equipped with a flexible tab 62a bearing against the annular friction member at a point shown in figure 19.

FR '479 shows the use of one flexible tab, but does not show the limitation of the component being equipped with a plurality of flexible tabs.

Art Unit: 3683

Lisowsky teaches in figures 2-4 the use of a component 54 being equipped with a plurality of flexible tabs 56.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the flexible tab of FR '479 to have been a plurality of flexible tabs, as taught by Lisowsky, in order to provide sinusoidal or wavelike deflections of element 64 in response to movement of element 62 in an axial direction to effect different energy-absorbing characteristics depending on the particular application. Examiner also notes that the use of multiple tabs will result in a similar braking capacity due to the contact of the tabs against element 64 using less material.

Re: claims 4 and 5. FR'479, as modified, teaches in figure 2 of Lisowsky the limitation wherein the tabs are arranged in opposing pairs and are uniformly distributed about the circumference as shown in figure 2.

Re: claims 6 and 9. FR '479 shows the means for braking being push fitted onto a support or groove as shown of the outer part.

Re: claim 7. In an alternate embodiment the means for braking includes 63a-63c wherein the means for braking is push-fitted onto a shaft 4b secured to the inner part as shown.

Re: claim 8. FR '479, as modified, teaches in figure 20 of FR '479 the limitation wherein in that the member equipped with the tabs comprises a push-fit portion or portion shown lodged into element 2 and leading up to area 62a and a portion 62a equipped with tabs, one of the portions being axial (particularly, the axial component of the portion lodged into element 2) and the other (62a) radial.

Art Unit: 3683

Re: claims 10 and 15. FR'479 shows the means for braking forming a sealing means 64 by way of a narrow passage in which element 64 is placed.

Re: claims 11-13. FR '479, as modified, teaches in figure 20 of FR '479 the limitation wherein the annular friction member comprises a support 63a and a friction lining 64, the support is mounted axially between a bearing ring 4 and a shoulder 33 of an element 31 secured to the ring.

Re: claim 14. FR '479, as modified, teaches in figure 20 of FR '479 the limitation wherein the annular friction member 64 comprises a friction lining supported directly by an element 63a secured to a bearing ring 4.

Re: claims 16 and 17. FR '479, as modified, teaches in figure 20 of FR '479 the limitation wherein the means for detecting rotation parameters comprises a sensor 14 secured to the non-rotating part and an encoder 18 secured to the rotating part or a sensor mounted in a cover 19 equipped with a wire outlet shown in the area of element 20.

Re: claims 18 and 19. FR '479, as modified, teaches in figure 20 of FR '479 the limitation wherein the inner ring 4 of the bearing is push-fitted onto a shaft 31 (having a shoulder 33 extending outward) supporting the wheel shown in figure 1 in the area of the lead line of number 34.

Re: claims 20 and 21. FR '479, as modified, teaches in figure 20 of FR '479 the limitation wherein the outer ring of the bearing is push-fitted into a casing 1 supporting part of the braking means and wherein the cover 15 is fixed onto the end of the casing 1 so as to close off the casing on the opposite side to the wheel.

Art Unit: 3683

3. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over FR-2804479 (FR '479) in view of US Patent 5044784 to Lisowsky as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of FR-810088 (FR '088).

In an alternate interpretation, FR '479, as modified, describes the invention substantially as set forth above, but does not include the limitation of the device comprising a seal protecting the braking means. FR '088 teaches in figure 1 the use of a seal 13 protecting the braking means 33 from debris entering from the right side of the device.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the device of FR'479, as modified, to include a seal, as taught by FR '088, in order to provide means for protecting the braking means from debris.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed 8/17/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Message (FR' 479) shows the invention including the limitation of a means for continuously braking the rotating part during rotation thereof in the alternative interpretation as set forth in the rejection of claim 1 above. Accordingly, the rejections have been maintained.

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melody M. Burch whose telephone number is 571-272-7114. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (6:30 AM-3:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James McClellan can be reached on 571-272-6786. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Application/Control Number: 10/735,634
Art Unit: 3683

Page 7

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mmb

October 20, 2005

Melody M. Burce
10/20/05

Melanie Torres
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Primary Examiner
10-27-05